

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 05756 280629Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01  
DHA-02 /058 W

-----280633Z 006815 /14

R 280430Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6810  
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 5756

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SN  
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF SHAMSUDDIN TUNG

REF: SINGAPORE 5724

1. UNITED FRONT CANDIDATE SHAMSUDDIN TUNG WAS ARRESTED  
ON DECEMBER 24, 1976 UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT.  
THE GOS PRESS STATEMENT ACCUSES TUNG OF "PLAYING ON  
THE 'GUT' ISSUES OF CHINESE LANGUAGE, EDUCATION,  
AND CULTURE TO INCITE CHAUVINISTIC EMOTIONS. THIS,  
IF NOT CHECKED, WILL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN RACIAL VIOLENCE."

2. THE GOS STATEMENT CLAIMS TUNG ISSUED AN EIGHT POINT  
MANIFESTO, DIFFERING FROM HIS PARTY'S; CALLING, IN  
PARTICULAR, FOR THE RELEASE OF LEE EU SENG AND ADVOCATING  
THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO THE TEACHING OF THE "MOTHER  
TONGUE". FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT BEING POUCHED.

3. ACCORDING TO FSL, TUNG WENT MUCH FARTHER IN HIS  
PRIVATE CONSTITUENCY VISITS THAN IN HIS PUBLIC RALLY  
STATEMENTS. TUNG ABANDONED THE CLOAK OF "MOTHER  
TONGUE" AND OPENLY ATTACKED THE PAP'S DESTRUCTION OF  
THE CHINESE LANGUAGE, EDUCATION, AND CULTURE IN  
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SINGAPORE. IN FSL'S OPINION, TUNG WENT CLEARLY AND  
KNOWINGLY BEYOND ACCEPTABLE NORMS. HE QUESTIONED TUNG'S  
SINCERITY IN FAILING TO DISCUSS AT PUBLIC RALLIES WHAT  
HE WAS SAYING AT SMALL MEETINGS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TUNG HAS CLAIMED THAT HE IS NOT

A CHINESE CHAUVINIST, AND HIS 1973 "CONFESSION" PORTRAYED A MAN ACTING FOR MONEY, HIS CONSTITUENCY CAMPAIGNING PITCH BRINGS THESE STATEMENTS INTO QUESTION. EITHER TUNG IS A SINCERE CHAUVINIST OR HE IS ACTING FOR MONEY ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHALF. EITHER WAY, THE GOS DETENTION DOES NOT APPEAR WITHOUT MERIT.

5. SURPRISINGLY, TUNG ONLY GARNERED 26 PERCENT OF HIS CONSTITUENCY'S VOTE IN A TWO-WAY RACE. DESPITE THE GOS'S FEAR, IN OUR VIEW JUSTIFIED, OF CHAUVINIST VIOLENCE, ISSUES RAISED BY TUNG APPARENTLY NO LONGER TRANSLATE INTO ELECTORAL SUPPORT.

6. SHAMSUDDIN TUNG'S WIFE HAD APPROACHED THE EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 22 TO INQUIRE ABOUT TUNG APPLYING FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. SHE WAS INFORMED THAT A DECISION ON GRANTING ASYLUM COULD ONLY BE MADE AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL HAD ENTERED THE EMBASSY AND THAT IT WAS NOT VERY LIKELY THAT IN THIS INSTANCE ASYLUM WOULD BE GRANTED. THE TIMING OF THE GOS ARREST (1:30A.M. DIRECTLY AFTER TUNG'S RETURN FROM THE ELECTORAL RETURNS CENTER) RENDERED THIS EVENTUALITY MOOT.  
HOLDRIDGE

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**Subject:** DETENTION OF SHAMSUDDIN TUNG  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, SN, (SHAMSUDDIN TUNG)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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